

H. Res. 784

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

September 28, 2004.

Whereas on August 13, 2004, Hurricane Charley reached landfall and blasted the southwest region of the State of Florida with 145 mile per hour winds and 10-foot storm surges;

Whereas on September 4, 2004, Hurricane Frances reached landfall and battered the east coast and central region of Florida with 105 mile per hour winds and up to 17 inches of rain;

Whereas on September 16, 2004, Hurricane Ivan reached landfall and devastated the panhandle region of Florida with 130 mile per hour winds and estimated 16-foot storm surges;

Whereas on September 26, 2004, Hurricane Jeanne reached landfall and struck the east coast of Florida with 120 mile per hour winds;

Whereas in Florida, 27 people lost their lives due to Hurricane Charley, 30 people lost their lives from the devastation caused by Hurricane Frances, 21 people lost their lives from the destruction of Hurricane Ivan, and 6 people lost their lives as a result of Hurricane Jeanne;

Whereas tens of thousands of homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed by the four hurricanes;

Whereas insured property losses from Hurricane Charley are estimated at almost \$7,000,000,000, losses from Hurricane Frances are estimated at up to \$4,000,000,000, and losses from Hurricane Ivan are estimated at up to \$10,000,000,000;

Whereas more than 20,000 farms were in the path of Hurricane Frances, resulting in more than \$2,000,000,000 in damage to the Florida agriculture community;

Whereas the travel and tourism industry in Florida faces billions of dollars in lost revenue;

Whereas power outages caused by the hurricanes have affected more than 6,000,000 people;

Whereas Florida Governor Jeb Bush took immediate action by declaring a major disaster for the entire State of Florida and deploying necessary resources to deal with this crisis;

Whereas the Florida Division of Emergency Management officials did an outstanding job coordinating efforts among Federal, State, and local entities;

Whereas Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, responded quickly to each of the disasters;

Whereas the Federal Emergency Management Agency has more than 2,700 agency workers helping with recovery efforts;

Whereas State, local, and municipal elected officials in Florida diligently voiced the concerns and needs of their respective communities;

Whereas State and local police officers, firefighters, and first responders went above and beyond the call of duty in responding to the four hurricanes;

Whereas Florida Emergency Operations Center personnel worked tirelessly to direct relief efforts;

Whereas the National Guard was quick to mobilize more than 4,100 troops to help in the relief effort;

Whereas doctors, nurses, and medical personnel worked expeditiously to ensure that hospitals and medical centers continued providing necessary care to their communities;

Whereas the American Red Cross and other volunteer organizations and charities are supplying hurricane victims with food, water, and shelter;

Whereas utility companies have worked around-the-clock shifts to restore electric, phone, cable, and water service to damaged areas;

Whereas the Army Corps of Engineers has worked to reinforce thousands of homes with roof damage;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration did an extraordinary job providing accurate forecasts of these four devastating storms; and

Whereas thousands of volunteers from across the country have donated their time and resources to help with recovery efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives commends the resiliency of the people of the State of Florida and the work of those individuals who have assisted with the recovery

efforts after the devastation caused by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne.

Attest:

Clerk.